25 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT

: Administrative Adoption of Statutory Benefits

REFERENCE

: Memo dtd 29 Dec 70 to D/Pers and SSA/DDS

fr DDS, subj: Travel Benefits for Civil Service Retirement System

Participants

- l. Pursuant to referent memorandum, this office, in collaboration with the Director of Personnel and the Deputy General Counsel, has developed the attached memorandum for your signature which recommends the extension of the same death and retiree travel benefits for participants in the Civil Service Retirement System as are now provided for participants in the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System. We believe this new memorandum provides a completely justifiable rationale for the proposed action. We recognize this is a rather lengthy document but feel it desirable to have a comprehensive statement of the reasons for approval for the record. With the number of retirements scheduled between now and the end of this fiscal year we urge early consideration and approval.
- 2. From the earlier studies made by the Director of Finance on the added cost of the proposed benefits, we established that the average is \$1,500.00 per employee and that only about 25 percent of those retiring under CIARDS had then opted to move to a new retirement point. Considering the deferment of move within the regulatory six months and extensions of actual date of retirement move beyond the regulatory six months, the 25 percent is undoubtedly low but the average cost per move was arrived at on a voucher-by-voucher review. From 1 July 1970 through 31 March 1971, a total of 186 CSRS participants will have retired and between 1 April and 30 June 1971 we expect roughly 140 more such retirements. Funds for these retirements do not have to be centrally budgeted; the individual offices/divisions/staffs having the retirees would be expected to fund the cost for their retirement travel and we believe this would pose no unusual problems.

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3. While the proposal in the attached memorandum seeks only a limited additional benefit for participants in the CSRS, it is interesting to note that the Department of State is proceeding rapidly to afford all of its career officer CSRS participants the full benefits of the Foreign Service Retirement System. Management Reform Bulletin # 8 dated 16 February 1971 subject "Toward a Unified Personnel System -- The Foreign Affairs Specialist Corps" states that the Department of State "will seek conversion to the new Foreign Affairs Specialist Corps, on a voluntary basis, of eligible career Civil Service Officers, Foreign Service Reserve Officers, Foreign Service Staff Officers, and a few Foreign Service Officers". Those General Schedule graded employees who convert to Foreign Service Officer or Foreign Affairs Specialist will be encouraged but not required to serve abroad if they are now age 50 or over. Exceptions from overseas service for other officers will be made on the basis of staffing needs for their specialty or to accommodate medical or family problems. It is also interesting to note that hereafter, the Department of State will make no new officer appointments in the General Schedule category, i.e., all new officer appointments will be covered under the Foreign Service Retirement System.



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Special Support Assistant/DDS

CONCUR:

/s/Harry B. Fisher

Harry B. Fisher

Date

Date

25 MAR 1971

25 MAR 1971

Date

Deputy General Counsel

Att

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